

SNOWSHOE HARE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Raised by Working Group 1985

Habitat

- Reverting Farmland along coast past the stage of good hare habitat.
- Forest survey says forests getting older but it does not appear that way to public.
- Habitat improvement could be done along coast on state lands and also on private land. Need a landowner extension program.

Population

- Populations low in some areas (along coast) but high in others (northern Maine).
- Predation (coyote and fisher) is a big factor in hare populations.

Harvest

- Public information to let people know where the most rabbits are.
- Incentive to hunt up north.
- Concern that coyotes may be affecting hare behavior.